

**AGENDA FOR  
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS' "NOON" MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2000  
Immediately Following Director's Meeting  
CONFERENCE ROOM 113**

**I. MINUTES**

- \*1. Minutes of "Noon" Council Members' Meeting of February 14, 2000.
- \*2. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: South Lincoln Trails - February 14, 2000.
- \*3. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: Joint City Council and LES Staff Presession Meeting-Power Supply Capital Expansion-Effluent at the Northeast Treatment Plant - February 14, 2000.
- 4. Minutes from Director's Meeting of February 14, 2000.
- 5. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program (D.B.E) - February 7, 2000.

**II. COUNCIL REPORTS ON BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND CONFERENCES**

- \*1. Board of Health Meeting (Johnson) - Held over from February 7, 2000-held over until 28, 2000.
- \*2. EMS Task Force Meeting (Johnson) - Held over from February 7, 2000-held over until 28, 2000.
- \*3. Board of Health (Johnson) - Held over from February 14, 2000-held over until 28, 2000.
- \*4. Entry-Way Meeting (Fortenberry)
- \*5. EMS Task Force Meeting (Johnson) - **CANCELLED**
- \*6. Concert/Entertainment Task Force Meeting (McRoy)
- \*7. Star City Holiday Festival and Parade Board Meeting (McRoy)
- \*8. Citizen's Meeting (Report Optional)(Seng)
- \*9. Community Health Partners Meeting (Report Optional)(Seng)
- \*10. StarTran Task Force Meeting (Seng)
- \*11. Indoor Ice Skating Task Force Meeting (Shoecraft)
- \*12. EMS Task Force Meeting (Shoecraft)

- \*13. Homeless Coalition Meeting (Shoecraft)
- 14. Internal Liquor Committee (Johnson/McRoy/Shoecraft)
- 15. Star City Holiday Festival & Parade Board Meeting-  
(Special Meeting)(McRoy)

**REPORTS CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE!**

- 16. Lincoln Action Program (McRoy)- **CANCELLED**  
(Rescheduled to February 28th due to the Holiday)
- 17. Star City Holiday Festival Board Meeting (McRoy)
- 18. Downtown Lincoln Association Board of Directors  
Meeting (Seng)
- 19. Indoor Ice Skating Task Force Meeting (Shoecraft)
- 20. PRT Meeting (Shoecraft)

**OTHER MEETINGS REPORTS:**

**III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS**

- \*1. Memo from Jennifer Brinkman - RE: Boards and  
Commission Appointments (See Memo).

**IV. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS**

- 1. The dream of a NEW Lincoln Children's Museum at 1420  
"P" Street in downtown Lincoln has become a reality.  
A public grand opening date has been set for  
Saturday, October 21, 2000. The weekend of October  
21-22 will be full of activities for all ages. They  
would like to hold an invitation-only, "sneak  
preview" grand opening on Thursday, October 19, 2000  
from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. A short program will  
take place at 6:00 p.m. with a ribbon cutting to  
follow. (See Invitation).
- 2. Invitation from Terry Bundy, LES - To tour the  
Laramie River Station (LRS) Generation Facility Tour  
(Wheatland, Wyoming). Their plans are to charter a  
plane and visit the plant on Wednesday, April 26,  
2000. The schedule would be to leave from Lincoln  
early in the morning and return late afternoon or  
early evening. Consider the trip to be an all day  
event. RSVP to Mary Tomlinson at the LES Office at  
473-3203 by March 22, 2000 (See Invitation Letter).

3. You are cordially invited to a preview showing of the newest McDonald's of Lincoln at 2700 Pine Lake Road on Tuesday, February 29, 2000 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (See Invitation).

**V. COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**VI. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - NONE**

**VII. MISCELLANEOUS**

1. Review and Discussion of options brought forward at the Council's Restructuring Meeting of February 17, 2000. (Request by Coleen Seng).
2. Discussion of City Council Budget - to be submitted to Budget Office March 3rd.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*HELD OVER FROM FEBRUARY 21, 2000.**

**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS "NOON" MEETING**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28 2000**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 113**

**Council Members Present:** Coleen Seng, Chair; Jeff Fortenberry, Vice-Chair; Jon Camp, Jonathan Cook, Cindy Johnson, Annette McRoy, Jerry Shoecraft.

**Others Present:** Ann Harrell, Jennifer Brinkman, Mayor's Office; Dana Roper, City Attorney; Paul Malzer, City Clerk; Darrell Podany, Aide to Jon Camp; Joan Ray, City Council Secretary; and Chris Hain, *Lincoln Journal Star* Representative.

**I. MINUTES**

1. Minutes of "Noon" Council Members' Meeting of February 14, 2000.
2. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: South Lincoln Trails - February 14, 2000.
3. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: Joint City Council and LES Staff Pre-session Meeting-Power Supply Capital Expansion-Effluent at the Northeast Treatment Plant - February 14, 2000.
4. Minutes from Director's Meeting of February 14, 2000.
5. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program (D.B.E) - February 7, 2000

Ms. Seng, Council Chair, requested a motion to approve the above-listed minutes. Jonathan Cook moved approval of the minutes with amendment. Mr. Cook directed that on Page 4 of the "Minutes from Director's Meeting of February 14, 2000", the words "Change of Zone to 26th and 27th Street" be corrected to read "change to the LMC at 27.63.700". Cindy Johnson seconded the motion, which carried by the following vote: AYES: Jonathan Cook, Annette McRoy, Coleen Seng, Jeff Fortenberry, Jerry Shoecraft, Jon Camp; NAYS: None; ABSTAINING: Cindy Johnson.

**II. COUNCIL REPORTS ON BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND CONFERENCES**

1. BOARD OF HEALTH MEETINGS (Johnson) - Out of Town/Did not Attend.
2. EMS TASK FORCE MEETINGS (Johnson) - Cancelled. Ms. Johnson did report that there will be a meeting of the EMS Task Force next Tuesday.

She did report that she was not very happy with the direction the Task Force is going. All of a sudden, everyone is placing their input into little letters and giving them to Leon [Vinci] and the members of the Task Force are not seeing what the other people are feeling. Next week it will be interesting to see what is presented to the group. She felt this was supposedly something that all the members shared in. She felt it would also be interesting since several Task Force members had called her with real concerns about what is being done, because they felt the whole process needs to be looked at. The whole group is very frustrated at this point.

Mr. Camp commented that he had received comments from various Board Members and upon running into Leon in the elevator, asked about the written comments submitted to him. Mr. Vinci had indicated that he would make those comments available to the Council.

Ms. Johnson stated that Mr. Vinci had not given anything to the EMS Task Force. She commented that right now, the Task Force does not know what all has been said. If all of them were to give a report, how do the members know if everything submitted was included in what is being presented to the Task Force now. Ms. Johnson noted that those were some of the concerns she had heard commenting that she supposed Mr. Vinci had received quite a few concerns expressed on that issue.

3. ENTRY-WAY MEETING (Fortenberry) Mr. Fortenberry reported that there was a meeting last week. Kim Todd and Scott Sullivan are the principals in the project. The primary focus, immediately, would be the North 27th and Interstate. Shortly after that the focus would be on the Downtown corridor of 9th Street and the Overpass, basically starting at the INS Building on "O" Street. Mr. Fortenberry stated that he had asked them to pull that and wait until we've started on the baseball stadium plans.

The Downtown Rotary Club had a representative there and they're thinking of contributing to the project. Mr. Fortenberry felt this was positive.

Mr. Fortenberry reported that also discussed was the possibility of Cecil Steward, who is serving on the committee, to serve as Chairperson of a broader initiative of fund raising that could tap into various downtown sources and other funding sources that might want to get behind the project, thus making it a City-wide effort.

Mr. Fortenberry reported that Polly McMullen also suggested that we include as part of the design process one specialized public input session from downtown, (primarily the Haymarket area) for input before the design is finalized. Mr. Fortenberry felt both the City-wide and the specialized input would be appropriate at different times in the development.

Mr. Camp asked how the Journal Star Building situation stands, noting that Mr. Fortenberry was concerned two years ago on that issue. Mr. Shoecraft, inserting a thought into the discussion, commented that he does not see much space at the building site where screening could be implemented for beautification, though he felt it was needed since the building was ugly. It needs landscaping.

Mr. Fortenberry stated that the railroad right-of-way is set to come out. We can work through that as it will give us probably about 10 feet of space right there that we can pull up and make the pedestrian use more friendly and put trees in. Mr. Shoecraft stated that as it is now, there is no room for landscaping. Ms. Harrell noted that there will be a landscaping strip on the west side as well as the "Q" Street side, too, though that wouldn't effect the entryway area.

4. CONCERT/ENTERTAINMENT TASK FORCE MEETINGS (McRoy) - There will be a meeting this Wednesday, which Ms. McRoy will not be attending; but she noted that things were going well on the Task Force.

5. STAR CITY HOLIDAY FESTIVAL AND PARADE BOARD MEETINGS (McRoy) - Ms. McRoy had no report.

6. CITIZEN'S MEETING (Report Optional)(Seng) - No Report.

7. COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERS MEETING (Seng) Meeting Cancelled.

8. STARTRAN TASK FORCE MEETING (Seng) - Meeting Cancelled.
9. INDOOR ICE SKATING TASK FORCE MEETINGS (Shoecraft) Mr. Shoecraft reported that the group has had three meetings. The first two were each an hour long and the last one was a four hour meeting. Now there simply remains review of all the information on all the possible different sites, evaluating each one on such issues as site availability, transportation, etc. Several sites mentioned have been Star City Shores, Seacrest Park, 8th & Hill, Abbott Sports complex and others. There is a sub-committee which has been organized to look at the financial feasibility of this possible project. Another meeting has been scheduled for next Tuesday at 7:00 a.m. for an hour. The Task Force is going well. People are excited about the possibility of an ice skating rink in Lincoln.
10. EMS TASK FORCE MEETING (Shoecraft) Mr. Shoecraft noted that he had reported on this a few weeks ago, that the Task Force is disbanded. The report had been submitted to the Board with some suggestions to be used when they were negotiating.
11. HOMELESS COALITION MEETING (Shoecraft)- Did Not Attend.
12. INTERNAL LIQUOR COMMITTEE (Johnson/McRoy/Shoecraft) Ms Johnson reported that the Internal Liquor Committee did meet last week. There was discussion on the fact that there is very little legislation that is going to go through. Most of it is pretty much dead in Committee. There is nothing of any major concern.

She commented that next month we'll be discussing some volunteer compliance checks that the University has done with that coalition that they put together, observing that what happened and some of the results has been real interesting. She noted that she was anxious to get that report.

Ms. Seng noted that she had given Ms. Johnson a copy of that letter that came from the Woods Park area, written by Dick Patterson. She commented that she thought that Joel {Pedersen} was dealing with that. Ms. Johnson requested Mr. Roper to have Mr. Pedersen call her on that matter. Mr. Roper responded that Mr. Pedersen has talked with a couple of those people involved. Ms. Johnson commented that, to be honest, she did not think there was anything the City could do; unless we wanted to combat it in court and she didn't know if we could necessarily do that. She felt she'd rather use City resources to fight something of greater impact than that. But, Mr. Pedersen could at least let those concerned know that it was brought to the attention of the Chair of the Council.

Ms. Harrell commented that we have been approached by that neighborhood as well about the possibility of declaring that building blighted. And Ms. Harrell commented that she is not sure that that is the route the City wants to take at this point. She commented that perhaps the City would want to do a beautification project in that business area, but declaring an area blighted might not be the avenue we want to take.

Ms. Johnson commented that this is the second time the City has denied a license there and that the State has overridden the decision. She stated that she did not know how to explain the situation to people. She stated that this Council and prior Councils have fought this location diligently. She added that there is only so much that the City can do. She felt the citizens who are concerned should perhaps be focusing their efforts on the State level since there is only so much that the City is able to do.

13. LINCOLN ACTION PROGRAM (McRoy) - **CANCELLED** (Rescheduled to February 28th due to the Holiday)

14. DOWNTOWN LINCOLN ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING (Seng) Ms. Seng reported that DLA had quite a listing of the various projects that are going on in the downtown area. Interested parties all made presentations and staff filled in where needed. The new Journal Star building was discussed. They hope by May 1st that there will be a new newspaper. The building is almost complete and they will be occupying it probably this week, or next. New equipment is being installed and German engineers are here training staff on its operation. The rail siding will be abandoned and they'll be trucking in their newsprint. Probably in May, we'll see a new kind of newspaper because of the capabilities of the new machinery.

One of the things the DLA is really trying to do is to begin working on University Market and get a handle on what that University Market really means for the downtown merchants.

15 PRT MEETING (Report Optional)(Shoecraft) Mr. Shoecraft noted that things are really quite right now. Many of the cases have been solved and a lot of properties have been cleaned up. A decision was made to meet, during slow times like this, only every other month. If situations warrant, the meetings will be reinstated to the once monthly schedule. The next meeting will be in March.

Mr. Shoecraft reported that John Bradley had submitted a memo regarding car lots and neighborhood encroachment, which outlined some possible solutions and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

## **OTHER MEETINGS**

Ms. McRoy reported that she attended the Animal Control Task Force last Thursday. It was an organizational meeting where everyone was introduced. The focus will be less on issues, such as barking dogs, and more on what direction Animal Control will be going, and answering questions such as will Animal Control be part of the Health Department, or combine with the Capital Humane Society, or other options. So we worked on what our goals are and this year we will not get stuck on issues, but leave those things to others. A six month time frame was set out to get everything buttoned up.

Ms McRoy noted that the members had asked what her reason for being there was, outside of being the Council representative, and she answered that her concern was prioritizing animal control from a legislative standpoint. The budget can't continue to be slashed until some services are combined. She stated that she explained to them that she was not speaking for Council, but for Council Member Annette McRoy -that this was her concern.

## **III APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS**

1. Memo from Jennifer Brinkman - RE: Boards and Commission Appointments - *Noted without Comment*

## **IV. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS - *Noted without Comment***

## **V. COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**JON CAMP** - No Further Comments

**JONATHAN COOK** - No Further Comments

**JEFF FORTENBERRY** - No Further Comments

**CINDY JOHNSON** - No Further Comments

**ANNETTE McROY** - No Further Comments

**COLEEN SENG** - No Further Comments.

**JERRY SHOECRAFT** - No Further Comments

**ANN HARRELL** - No Further Comments

**DANA ROPER** - No Further Comments

## **VI. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR**

*Not on the Agenda, but proposed by the Chair at the Mayor's Request:* Committee Appointment of a Council Member to serve on an EMS contract proposals screening committee. Mr. Shoecraft had indicated that he would be interested in serving on that committee. Mr. Camp stated that he appreciated the Mayor's forming this committee, but felt it was premature until some remaining questions have been dealt with and a direction has been established. He asked if two Council Members could be appointed. Ms. Seng directed Ms. Brinkman to check to see if two Council Members could be appointed. Ms. Brinkman's assumption was that they will be meeting within the next week. The Mayor hopes to have the document ready next week. The Screening Committee would not meet until the proposals come back, which will be in March or April. Ms. Brinkman indicated that she would check to see if two Council Members could be appointed.

## **VII. MISCELLANEOUS and ADDENDUM**

Discussion included the Review and Discussion of options brought forward at the Council's Restructuring Meeting of February 17th, Discussion of the City Council's Proposed Budget and the Restructuring Memos from Jon Camp and Paul Malzer.

The Council thanked Ms. Seng for setting up the restructuring meeting in the first place. Everyone felt it was a good step in evaluating Council's needs.

Ms. Seng noted that the first issue discussed was adding another staff person in the Council Office. That needs to be placed in the budget if Council decides to do that. She stated that she had asked the Mayor if he would support that, if Council decided to put it in the proposed 2000-2001 budget, and he had agreed to do so.



Mr. Camp noted that he was proposing two additional people on his memo. He explained that he would propose an Office Manager or Chief of Staff position which would have a legal background and could help on a number of legal matters; someone who would understand documents and be able to do some "bird-dogging" for us...such as Kerry Eagan's role for the County Commissioners Office.

The second position would be a Research/Constituent Service Manager. This would be someone who could take over the constituent inquiries and handle them in a more timely fashion and who would also have the ability to provide staff research for Council as a whole.

Mr. Camp also commented that he also recommended that the current \$5,000.00 individual conference/research fund be increased to \$10,000.00. He felt there were times when each Council member wants to decide who he or she would like to use for some specific research.

Ms. Seng asked if that increase would cause an increase in taxes. Mr. Camp indicated that it would not. His strategy would be a zero tax increase. He explained that he felt there were funds in the other areas of the budget that we can shift here. Ms. Seng asked if he meant the Council Budget. Mr. Camp explained that his proposal would nearly double the Council budget by approximately \$170,000 in addition to the currently proposed \$140,000. He commented that Lincoln has been a 3rd World Council. It is time for us to come out of the Dark Ages. He noted that he admired all the Council Members who have served these past years, but in the last twenty years, the City has changed. The citizens of Lincoln deserve more. He felt there were other areas in the City budget where, just through efficiencies of process, the money could be made up.

Mr. Shoecraft noted that Mr. Camp isn't coming up for a campaign in a year. Mr. Camp stated that if the over-all budget is looked at, there are people we could shift to cover these staff position. That would save the money right there - where there is duplication.

Mr. Camp believes that we have a good City Government, and he stated that he was not being critical from that standpoint, but if Council can make things happen faster, we should. We can get our other meetings down so the Director's don't have to answer to seven people, but all the issues would be directed to them through one person for reporting. Also, if each one of us has the same concern in our individual areas, (such as curb cuts, or street signage or traffic signals) that could be addressed as one concern and not as seven separate issues. Mr. Camp felt these positions were needed and could be done with a zero tax increase.

Ms. McRoy commented that, though Mr. Camp was probably discussing a higher skill level, the Vista workers and interns could be utilized. She thought possibly an older, retired person with a legal background could be found to work for something to do. There could be some different funding sources to accomplish getting more staff. Maybe not to the degree that Mr. Camp is suggesting, but we could utilize some programs we already have to get more staff.

Mr. Camp stated that if Council wants to go that way, it would be fine. What he proposed, however, is getting people who are paid, in a long-term position, so that as there are changes in the Council, that the Council as an entity doesn't lose continuity. He stated that he would not view these positions as political patronage in any form. A retired person may not be as long-term oriented. He stated that he would rather see someone who could offer long-term expertise. He mentioned that at this point it was helpful to Council to have Coleen's experience along with the tenure of the other longer term Council Members. But the Council needs someone who can offer that long-term guidance to each new Council.

Ms. Seng commented that this discussion needs to be continued, but in the beginning of current discussions, it was agreed to add one position to the Council budget. So, to get that agreed upon in order to have the money in the current budget, we need to have it moved and approved

There was discussion as to what type of position it would be. Mr. Cook felt the Constituent's Services Manager would be a reasonable position to propose (\$45,000 level). Ms. Johnson stated that she disagreed, commenting that the Chief of Staff position would be a better route. She felt that, while they were learning, they could handle the Constituent Services Manager's position at the same time.

Mr. Cook asked what else the Chief of Staff would be doing? Ms. Johnson commented that if you could get someone with a legal background that could advise the Council on these issues as Kerry Eagan does for the County Commissioners, they could also be that Constituent Service Manager, because it would take all members some time to get adjusted to having someone in that capacity.

Mr. Cook stated that he thought the Constituent Service Manager would not necessarily have to have the same level of training or background as would be required for a Chief of Staff. He explained that he sees the position as one that would handle more the day-to-day inquiries, requests and messages, and coordinating the correspondence, insuring that there was no duplication. They would stay in touch with the Mayor's Office. He stated that he didn't see them working up to something else. He also didn't know if someone with a legal background on the level of a Chief of Staff would want to do this type of day-to-day thing.

Ms. Johnson commented that the two positions should be installed at the same time, or at least install the top position first. Otherwise there would be the situation of someone having to train their Supervisor, if the higher position came in after the lower position was in place. Ms. Seng pointed out that there are already two staff members in place.

Mr. Malzer stated that as the budget is done, if Council is going to add staff, it should be remembered that the current staff positions are salaried out of the Clerk's Office. He felt that if Council were going to hire additional people, and the current staff positions would have to report to that individual, those positions should be placed back into the budget for the Council.

Mr. Shoecraft stated that Joan and Tammy have been working here in the Council office and people have hopes that in their employment, there are opportunities to advance. He stated that he was not interested in bringing someone in who will start telling those two what to do and they have to answer to the new position. He stated he would like to see some reward from within; not having someone coming in and telling them how to do the job. How does that show our view of their years of service by bringing someone in over them? Then they would have to answer to that person, and us and Paul and someone else. Where's their opportunity?

Mr. Cook stated that he didn't see the Constituent's Service Manager as necessarily being over them, though; but just freeing them up to do other things they need to do, while the Manager is concentrating solely on these constituent requests. The position of Chief of Staff is another issue and he would like to discuss more about what that person's duties would be...he stated that it isn't clear.

Ms. Johnson stated that they need to agree to do the one with the highest salary so that we can look at the budget line. It is more difficult, if we change our mind, to add another amount. It's easier to go down on a budget line than up. If we aren't going to go into detail with the position, and are only going to put it on as a possibility, let's at least put on the one with the higher salary so we can go down if we change our minds.

Mr. Camp stated that Mr. Shoecraft had brought up a good point regarding current Council staff. The Chief of Staff would be someone, ideally, with a law background, but there is nothing to say that there couldn't be the opportunity for either Joan or Tammy to go into the Constituent Service Managers position. He felt he would leave that up to the Council. His vision was more broad in scope. Maybe Coleen and Cindy have a good point to start with one person one year and the other the second, doing this in a two

steps. He commented that Ms. Johnson was probably right to start with someone to organize the effort. He stated that he would also like to see more computerization, and technology to update office procedures.

Ms. Seng commented that she would like to refer to Paul's memo. He has a time-line set out. Because Council Staff is under the Clerk's Office right now, let's look at what he has proposed. He suggests that in March, he gathers information through discussion with other clerk's; in April he will review the information with Council; in May, implementation. That is his suggestion.

He also suggests that added positions are needed in Council Staff positions; designate an Office Manager; and have all Staffing personnel budgeted through the Council's Budget. He indicates that in the meantime, he will be working with the Department Heads to reduce the Pending List on the Council's Agenda. She suggested that the Council Members take a look at that memo, if they have not had an opportunity to do so.

Mr. Fortenberry asked how this would effect the responsibility for the Council's personnel review if the Clerk's suggestions were implemented. He asked if that would still remain with the Clerk's Office. Mr. Malzer responded that no, it would not. Mr. Fortenberry stated then, that it would fall to the Council as a separate operating entity. That means that the Council Chair will have a whole other added level of responsibility. Mr. Malzer stated not necessarily. Ms. Ray explained that she had been doing the personnel reviews for the Office Assistant III position in the Council Office. Mr. Fortenberry stated that someone would have to have the final authority. *Clerk Malzer indicated that that was why he had an Office Manger position designated.* [Emphasis added]

Clerk Malzer explained that his office came into the picture when Eileen Stone was in the office with her leaves of absence. At that time, Personnel came to the Clerk's Office to see if we could help out. We said yes. But within the process and everything that eventually evolved, the two Council Staff positions stayed under the Clerk's Office.

He feels at this time, with the added responsibility and the additional people that Council wishes to have in the office... He explained that he has no knowledge of the duties that Council Staff is responsible for. He only oversees attendance and vacation. What the Clerk's Office does is make sure there is someone in the Council Office. As for evaluating performance...that is why he sent out interoffice memos for the evaluation of Joan's performance. The instructions for the performance of their duties come from individual Council persons. He has no control over that. He therefore feels that since Council is wanting to expand the Council Office Staff, that all the personnel should be under the City Council.

Mr. Fortenberry noted that if Council did have a Chief of Staff, obviously they would become the Office Manager. What he wanted to say, without seeming self-serving, after looking at what Omaha does (and Lincoln is two-thirds the size of Omaha) that Omaha has nearly a \$800,000 budget. The Council Chair makes an additional 20% in pay because of the added responsibility.

Mr. Fortenberry stated that For future Council's this does concern him. Lincoln is the 76th largest city in America. It has become a big city. The growing complexity of the governing process is forcing these changes. He commented that he was glad the Council has had these discussions. We need to respond to these changes. Every time we have this discussion, we get the feeling from the rest of the City bureaucracy (and that is not meant pejoratively) "what does the Council do"? He stated that it's nothing against the current administration, explaining that he has said the same thing when he first came on the Council under the previous administration. He added that currently, he does not feel empowered to do his job adequately, given the high level of fiduciary responsibility that this position holds. He added that he was glad for the opportunity to have this discussion and for the move in this direction.

Ms. Seng stated that, to help facilitate the budget process, we need to get *some* amount of money put in for another Staff person. Mr. Camp asked if there would be two positions put in. Ms. Seng

commented that she was discussing one position. Mr. Camp stated that \$270,000 is just twice what we have added to the Consultants contract to negotiate our Cable franchise. We, without a whimper, spend more than this on many items. He felt Council needs it to do our job effectively and serve the citizens. He stated that he was not trying to inflate the amount, either. He felt even twice that amount is what we ought to have.

Mr. Shoecraft stated that future Councils deserve a pay increase if they're going to serve on this body. By what we're doing right now is going to set the bar at what Council members are earning right now. Two new people, plus \$5,000 more per Council Member...what he wanted to emphasize is that Council could not come back in five years, or next year, saying we deserve a pay increase...look what the County Board is getting. Ms. Seng pointed out that the Council can not do that. Mr. Shoecraft stated that he knows that; but felt that doing this would preclude pay increases for any future hard-working Council; even as the City grows and things become more complex. The taxpayers would not go for it. You're going to hear some grumbling over what we're trying to do now. He felt what is trying to be done now, is good; but we'll hear the grumbling.

Mr. Fortenberry stated that he was fascinated by Joan's reports that when people call in they want to talk to a Council Member and are told he is not in, but will be available on Monday or they're given a contact phone number. They ask...why isn't he there...he's never there when I call. When it's explained that Council is part-time; they say "oh". The level of issues we work with on a week-in, week-out basis presents us to the community as actively engaged in the process on more than a part-time basis.

Mr. Shoecraft stated that if Council were more full-time, then we would possibly deserve the pay increase if the tax payers supported it. Then we could do a lot more of our own research and letter writing, etc. Since we are in this part-time position, obviously we can't; so we want to add staff. If we add the staff, though, we'll have to forget about the pay increases for any future Council, which I think is deserved; because this is almost a full-time job.

Ms. Seng asked then, if Mr. Shoecraft wanted to give direction to put two positions in then? He stated no. She asked what he was saying, then. He stated that he just wanted everyone to be cognizant that the decision Council makes as to how many people should be added to Staff, will be made as a group.

Ms. Johnson stated that she liked Paul's idea. He has a lot of resources that he can call on to evaluate our situation. He can bring the experience of other Councils with similar hours, learning how they handle these types of things. Let's have him get some information and report back to us. She stated that she was happy to do one position, but let's do the one at the higher rate, so that we have something to work with in the budget process. Then we'll see what Paul comes up with. We may choose to do what Jon requested after we've reviewed the information.

After some intense discussion, the figure was dropped from \$80,000 to \$60,000. This issue was decided unanimously. Discussion concerning the addition of \$5,000.00 to each individual Council members' Research/Consultants fund (bringing the total of each Council Members' discretionary fund to \$10,000 per year) also ensued. This was approved 4-2-1 with Council Members Seng and Shoecraft voting "no". Council Member Cook was undecided. Mr. Fortenberry added, for the record, that he was voting for this in the spirit of looking at some restructuring that will help the Council members do their jobs better.

Mr. Shoecraft added that it would be cheaper for the taxpayers to increase the Council salaries to where members could devote more time to their duties. Ms. Johnson agreed, but noted that the people will not allow Council to do that. She observed that we still have a Charter to follow.

Mr. Shoecraft suggested, then, that Council needs to paint a picture for them stating what we're facing. The community has to initiate that; the Council cannot initiate such a move.

The final decision was to add the \$60,000 to Council's Personnel budget for a Staff Position and to add \$5,000.00 to each council members individual Conferences/Research fund. The total addition to the City Council 2000-2001 Budget would be \$95,000.00 bringing the total budget to \$242,638. There will be a review of options after Clerk Malzer has submitted his report. Mr. Roper indicated that they would be moving personnel from the Classified services to Unclassified under the auspices of the Council. He stated that at some point in time, the Personnel Office would have to be involved.

The decision regarding the Outstanding RFI's was to leave the requests listed under the existing Council Members' list of RFI's on the Directors' Agenda. The Outstanding RFI's will be noted as the final item under each Council Member's listing of Requests for Information on the Weekly Directors' Agenda.

Council discussed the Removal of the Public Forum portion of the Formal Council Agendas. Ms. Johnson requested that Clerk Malzer do some research on that. Clerk Malzer stated that his main concern is the structure of the Agenda and the conducting of the meetings. In March, there is a Municipal Clerk's School in Grand Island, which he will be attending, and he could discuss with other clerks some of the problems that they have encountered. He noted that there is nothing new under the sun and somewhere someone has experienced the concerns we're facing now. In April, Clerk Malzer would present to Council, or to a Review Committee if that is the Council's wish, a report of his findings with, possibly, suggestions for procedural changes. Clerk Malzer noted that if Council had any particular changes regarding Council procedures, it could be implemented in May with the start of the new Chair person's tenure.

Ms. Seng noted that Council was particularly concerned about the allotment at the time of the end of the meeting because of the City's liability regarding comment content. Lynn Rex was very specific about this concern. Ms. Seng felt they needed to have some action on that issue. She directed Clerk Malzer to investigate that prior to the March meeting. He stated that he would have some answers by next Monday.

Mr. Cook asked about the Meeting scheduling. He stated that perhaps that should be discussed along with the structuring of public input portion. He felt the City's interest is in actually providing a better forum for people who want to come to speak to the issues. We just don't need that free-for-all situation that seems to exist now.

Ms. Johnson stated that Clerk Malzer had shared some concerns he had with all of that restructuring and what he has done in the past for certain individuals that have not been able to come to Council at night or at the end of the day. She felt this is another thing to refer to Paul when he does his research to see what is happening in other areas.

Mr. Malzer stated that scheduling all night meetings was brought up at an earlier time, but the process fell through the cracks. There are people who are unable to come to the night meetings because they rely on the buses and there are no night bus services. He stated that he will investigate the records and see if there was any formal decision presented on the issue.

Clerk Malzer indicated that he approved of Mr. Cook's idea of perhaps having every other meeting an evening meeting. Alternating a 1:30 p.m. meeting one Monday, with a 6:30 p.m. meeting the next, thus having two night meetings per month. He noted that Council could watch what is placed on the Agenda, because at one time there was a policy that all rate increases or anything controversial would go on a night meeting agenda.

Mr. Cook stated that his preference was actually to move all the meetings to night meetings. But the alternating schedule was proposed, because he wasn't sure that the all night meetings schedule would

be “doable”. If there were concerns such as StarTran’s schedule, perhaps Council would want to make arrangements for the small number of people who might want to show up, rather than structuring the meetings around that. He noted that there would still be the problem of 6:30/1:30 confusion.

Mr. Fortenberry mentioned that many people can’t attend the meetings because they have to work. He felt this was a much larger constituency than those unable to attend night meetings because of the bus schedules. It was decided that Paul would do some investigating into this issue before a decision was made.

Mr. Cook asked if everyone was agreed to the Shadow Ridge Road name change. Council was in general agreement to the change.

**VIII. MEETING ADJOURNED** Approximately 1:25 p.m.

CM022800jvr